Prices of Disomin and Mefanamic Acid

1267. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:
SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI:
PROF. I.G. SANADI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) when were the ceiling prices of Disomin and Mefanamic Acid formulations fixed;

(b) whether Daflon and Vensumin based on Disomin are being sold at three times the leader price;

(c) if so, the prices charged;

(d) whether formulators are defying the prices fixed for Cefotexims and Mefanamic Acid formulations and are charging two to three times the prices, if so, the position thereof and action taken;

(e) whether Govt. has constituted the price implementation committee if so, the Chairman and Members of this committee; and

(f) whether a number of instances of overcharging of prices are known to the committee, if so, the steps and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) Fixation of prices of formulations is an ongoing process. Diosmine and Mefanamic Acid have come under price control for the first time. The prices of formulations based on Mefanamic Acid have not been fixed under DPCO, 1995 so far. Whereas the ceiling prices for formulations based on Disomin have been fixed and notified in July, 95.

(b) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Increasing prices of Text Books

1268. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a school text book that cost not more than Rs. 15/- till a year ago suddenly costs Rs. 45/- and it is getting dearer;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a reference book which could be purchased on the prices till January this year now costs more than double that prices; and

(c) if so, the reasons for sharp increase in the prices of school text books and whether Government will take any immediate/affective steps to bring down the prices of school text books?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION) (DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI): (a) to (c) The textbooks being used in various schools (from primary to senior secondary stage) are generally produced by the State Text books boards as well as private publishers. The Central Government does not exercise any direct control with regard to prices of the textbooks. However, National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Human Resource Development, develops syllabi and publishes textbooks for use in the schools affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). NCERT prices these books on 'no-profit-no-loss' basis, which depend upon the input costs i.e. paper and printing. Cost escalation of these inputs adversely affects the prices of the textbooks.

As per the information given by the NCERT, the increase in the price of school textbooks may be due to increase in price of printing paper of text and cover, low print order of some of the textbooks, increase in printing and